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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G01N9/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) G01G B65B IPC 7 GO1N B81B Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category 9 Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Υ US 4 644 803 A (WARD ROGER W) 1 - 4024 February 1987 (1987-02-24) column 4, lines 20-66; figure 1 Y US 6 155 098 A (DEAN ANTHONY JOHN ET AL) 1 - 405 December 2000 (2000-12-05) column 3, lines 17-35 column 4, lines 46-56 US 2003/000291 A1 (KOLOSOV OLEG ET AL) Υ 2-7 2 January 2003 (2003-01-02) paragraph '0078! US 5 477 726 A (STABINGER HANS ET AL) 1,8-4026 December 1995 (1995-12-26) column 2, lines 46-61; figure 1 X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents : \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means \*P\* document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed in the art "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 9 July 2004 04/08/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Cantalapiedra, I Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (January 2004)

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